AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and add new Claims 9-28, as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (new) A method for operating a programmable washing machine comprising a laundry drum arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, which can be moved program-dependently with different speed profiles in both directions of rotation and comprising a real-time clock by means of which the user himself can determine the beginning or end of the washing process, and comprising an anti-crease operation incorporated after the wash and spin program sections for loosening the laundry in the drum, associated with an intermediate step in which the drum drive is driven with short and strong accelerating or braking pulses to bring about the detachment of a ring of laundry lying against the inner wall of the drum, formed during the spinning and in which the successful detachment of the laundry ring is monitored by means of comparative measurement data which are automatically determined by the program control system, wherein the subsequent anti-crease operation can be manipulated by the user.

10. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the start and end time of the entire wash program including at least one of the anti-crease operation and the duration of the subsequent anti-crease operation can be freely selected by the user as well as the speed, duration of rotation and the time intervals between the rotation phases.

11. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein when programming the anti-crease program section the user is guided and supported by means of a display in the manner that the program specifies to the user via the display values for the parameters speed, duration of rotation, duration of rest phases and total duration which are derived internally in the control system as a favorable average from a plurality of measurement data determined in comparative tests and stored in the memory, from the wash program selected by the user including the additionally input parameters and from the loading of the drum determined by the sensors, and that these default values can be changed at least one of upwardly and downwardly by the user.

12. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein the values set by the user for the anti-crease operation are compared internally in the control system with the selected laundry care program including the additional parameters and are checked for compatibility, and that an incompatible value is indicated in the display.

13. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein an incompatible value is indicated by repeated flashing of the display indicator.

14. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein for monitoring the detachment of the laundry ring from the inner wall of the drum at the beginning of the anti-crease operation in the reversing phases, at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data are recorded and these are compared with the corresponding measurement data which are obtained from the short analysis section incorporated before the wash program.

15. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the comparative data are recorded during rotation of the laundry drum at feed speed and at a speed which was specified by the user for the anti-crease system.

16. (new) The method according to claim 9, wherein when a laundry ring is identified, the laundry drum is briefly moved with high acceleration and braking pulses and that when a laundry ring is repeatedly registered, the laundry drum is moved with gradually increased accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring.

17. (new) A method for operating a programmable washing machine having a program control system with a memory and controlling operation of the washing machine, a laundry drum arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, the drum being movable with different speed profiles in both directions of rotation and being controllable by programs from the program control system, a display device, and a timing device by means of which the user himself can determine the beginning or end of the washing process, the method comprising the following acts:

receiving input data from the user;

performing a washing program in which a liquid is added to the drum and the drum and laundry are rotated in the liquid to wash the laundry;

performing a spinning program in which the drum is rotated at a relatively high speed to remove water from the laundry, a laundry ring being formed lying against the inner wall of the drum during the spinning program;

performing an anti-crease operation incorporated after the wash and spin program sections for loosening the laundry in the drum, the anti-crease operation comprising:

driving the drum with short and strong accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring lying from the inner wall of the drum;

monitoring the detachment of the laundry ring with a sensor sensing measurement data of the laundry ring and the program control system comparing the measurement data to initial measurement data; and

adjusting the anti-crease operation with the program control system in response to the input data from the user.

18. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein the anti-crease operation includes multiple rotation phases and the input data from the user includes desired operating parameters for the anti-crease operation including the duration of the anti-crease operation, the speed and duration of drum rotation during the rotation phases, and the time intervals between the rotation phases.

19. (new) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the following acts:

determining operating parameters for the anti-crease operation including speed, duration of rotation, duration of rest phases, and total duration with the program control system from a plurality of measurement data determined in comparative tests and stored in the memory;

displaying the operating parameters for the user on the display device; and

receiving adjusted values of the operating parameters from the user.

20. (new) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the following acts:

comparing the adjusted values set by the user with pre-determined operating parameters in the program control system, and determining if the adjusted values are compatible with the pre-determined operating parameters; and

providing a signal on the display device if the adjusted values are incompatible with the pre-determined operating parameters

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein the signal includes a repeated flashing on the display device.

22. (new) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the act of measuring the initial measurement data with the sensor before the act of performing the washing program, the initial measurement data representing a start condition and the measurement data during the anti-crease operation being compared to the initial data from before the washing program to determine if the laundry ring has detached and returned to the start condition, wherein the measurement data sensed by the sensor includes at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data.

23. (new) The method according to claim 22, further comprising the act of recording the measurement data during rotation of the laundry drum at feed speed and at a speed which was specified by the user for the anti-crease operation.

24. (new) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the act of moving the laundry drum with relatively high acceleration and braking pulses when a laundry ring is identified, and gradually increasing the accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring when the laundry ring is repeatedly registered.

25. (new) A programmable washing machine comprising:

a program control system with a memory and controlling operation of the washing machine;

a soap-solution container for retaining liquids;

a laundry drum for receiving laundry and being arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, the drum being movable with different speed profiles in both directions of rotation and being controllable by washing programs, spinning programs, and anti-crease operations from the program control system;

a display device displaying operational data of the washing machine for a user;

an input device for receiving input data from the user, the input data being transferred to the program control system;

a timing device by means of which the user himself can determine the beginning or end of the washing process;

a sensor sensing measurement data to detect the presence of a laundry ring formed against an inner wall of the drum, the sensor sensing initial measurement data before the running of the washing program and sensing current measurement data during the running of the anti-crease operation, the program control system comparing the current measurement data and the initial measurement data to determine the presence of the laundry ring;

a means for adjusting the operating parameters of the anti-crease operation in response to the input data from the user, the anti-crease operation including driving the drum with short and strong accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring lying from the inner wall of the drum;

a means for adjusting the operating parameters of the anti-crease operation in response to the program control system determining the presence of the laundry ring.

26. (new) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the operating parameters include the duration of the anti-crease operation, the speed and duration of drum rotation, and the time intervals of rest phases between drum rotation.

27. (new) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the measurement data sensed by the sensor includes at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data.

28. (new) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the program control system includes a memory and the measurement data sensed by the sensor is recorded in the memory of the program control system.